

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1192355

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD
16 NOVEMBER 2020 TO 31 MARCH 2022
FOR
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE**

Berringers LLP
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and Statutory Auditors
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PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

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for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022**

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

TRUSTEES	S Canning (appointed 28.7.2020 – resigned 20.9.2021) L Crisfield (appointed 20.7.2021) K L Gay (appointed 20.7.2021) G R Miller (appointed 20.7.2021) N D Mulholland (appointed 28.7.2020) S E Muna (appointed 28.7.2020) J Parkes (appointed 20.7.2021) E Segal (appointed 20.7.2021) A Taylor (appointed 20.7.2021)
PRINCIPAL ADDRESS	17 Old Ford Road Bethnal Green London E2 9PH
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1192355
AUDITORS	Berringers LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Lygon House 50 London Road Bromley Kent BR1 3RA

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE
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The Public Interest Law Centre (PILC thereafter) was initially set up in September 2016 as a project of Lambeth Law Centre by our Senior Solicitor, Paul Heron. Thanks to a generous grant from the Oak Foundation, he was joined by Helen Mowatt and Jean Demars in 2018 following a major legal victory against the Home Office over its policy of detaining and removing EEA nationals for sleeping rough. During the summer 2019, Lambeth Law Centre went into liquidation and PILC became independent, first as a company limited by guarantee. We are indebted to the Law Centres Network, Camden Community Law Centre and a number of trusts and foundations who supported us at that critical time, namely: The Baring Foundation, the Oak Foundation, the AB Charitable Trust, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the Tudor Trust and the London Legal Support Trust. We are also grateful to Matt Howgate who supported us throughout the transition and continues to advise PILC on a consultancy basis.

The following year, we registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Charity Commission. When we finally settled into our offices in Bethnal Green, little did we know that we would also have to deal with a major pandemic within a couple of months of arriving.

Today we are proud to present our first annual report for the charity. In its short and eventful history, PILC has shown resilience and built an impressive track record. This would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of its staff as well as the generous support of all those mentioned above and others since then. Over the period this report covers, we have made huge progress in establishing and strengthening the organisation.

We continue to be inspired by frontline organisations and grassroots groups, campaigners and activists who demand justice and whom we support through legal representation, strategic litigation, research and advocacy.

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

ROLE OF TRUSTEES

The trustees review the aims, objectives and activities of the charity each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The trustees report on each area of activity the organisation has undertaken whilst highlighting the benefits it has brought to the people that it is set up to support and work with. The review also helps the trustees to ensure that the charity's aims, objectives and activities remained focused on its stated purposes.

The trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

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OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

The Public Interest Law Centre exists to challenge systemic injustice through legal representation, strategic litigation, research and legal education. We specialise in public law, actions against public authorities and public inquiries, bringing cases to court for individuals and grassroots groups who have been treated unfairly. We hold government and public bodies to account, challenging unlawful policies and practices. We will not rest until we see a fairer and more equal society.

Over the past 12 months, PILC has continued to make excellent progress against its strategic priorities:

- (1) Strengthen PILC's strategic, operational and financial management so it is robust and well-resourced and its governance reflects its values.
- (2) Grow the capacity of PILC's litigation team in its existing areas of expertise and develop one new area: planning/environmental law (associated to regeneration projects).
- (3) Develop PILC's communications to grow the organisation's profile, influence and supporter engagement.

OUR APPROACH

PILC is a legal organisation located at the grassroots. This is not a market choice: rather, it is where we come from and where we believe social change begins. This commitment forms the basis of our distinct identity as a law centre rooted in communities fighting for social justice.

We work in solidarity with people affected by systemic issues to build their power whilst highlighting their experience. Our priorities and the direction of our strategic litigation are set by these relationships. Strategy is formulated together with the individuals and groups we represent, whom we support through legal education to ensure that the process is transparent and meaningful throughout. Working this way implies a recognition that process and outcomes are not separate; we aim to integrate litigation within a broader movement for social justice.

We work in collaboration with grassroots groups, campaigns and frontline organisations through a legal hub model, building capacity through legal education and advocating through legal action in key priority areas: racial justice and migrants rights; housing/homelessness; violence against women; the impact of austerity; and state surveillance.

We are also conscious that the law is not a favourable terrain for social justice campaigners or for vulnerable and marginalised individuals/groups. However, we believe it is vital to hold government and public bodies to account and challenge unfair policies and practices wherever possible. We use the law as a tactic to support the work of frontline organisations, grassroots campaigners and activists in our areas of expertise.

While PILC's contribution to human rights and social justice campaigning is through its litigation work, we do not evaluate that work in traditional legal terms. The value of a case is not determined solely by its outcome in the court, however essential that is, but also by the attention it can draw to the issues at stake and the rights of the communities we represent.

Legal Hub

This model brings together a community-engaged and strategic approach. It can be broken into 6 interconnected parts:

1. Building relationships and identifying issues

The initial stage of any work begins with building relationships through meeting and listening to the issues affecting people and those supporting them. We also run problem-identifying sessions with frontline workers. This involves reviewing caseloads and reflecting on arising and recurrent issues. Discussing the possibility and implications of legal action at an early stage, including funding issues, is an important part of this process.

2. Research

Research helps us identify trends - particularly around unlawful practices - and provides an evidence base for strategic litigation. In addition to identifying issues and patterns through our relationships and networks, we also conduct desk research, submit Freedom of Information requests and monitor legislation and policy developments in key priority areas.

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3. Training & Capacity Building

Legal education is key to making the process of litigation meaningful and inclusive. We publish briefings in non-technical language on relevant points of law or new legislation. We deliver training to frontline organisations and grassroots groups in key priority areas. We also undertake radical rights education with people affected by systemic issues and those supporting them. As part of our training, we offer follow-up second-tier advice and advocacy tools (e.g. template letters, practical tips) to improve the quality of advice/advocacy work.

4. Legal Advice & Representation

We take referrals in key priority areas through existing relationships. Our website has a contact form for new enquiries. We work on complex individual cases that require public law interventions. It is also through this work that strategic litigation often emerges. Where appropriate, we also make claims for damages on behalf of our clients.

5. Strategic Litigation

Strategic litigation is at the core of PILC's work. We challenge the lawfulness of policies, decisions, actions and omissions by public bodies and authorities on our clients' behalf. We often build challenges from individual cases and show how the issues involved impact a wide range of people. The aim in much of our litigation is not simply to win individual cases, but to set legal precedents and change wider policy and practice. In our short lifetime we've won victories that have helped counter some of the worst excesses of state surveillance, social cleansing, gender-based violence & structural racism.

6. Strategic Communications

We are deeply aware of the limits of legal action. We use communications to publicise legal successes and to ensure that the social-justice issues at the heart of a case aren't lost, particularly where we receive a negative court decision. We also publish a monthly blog through which we highlight the significance of our legal work and spotlight issues that mainstream media doesn't report on.

We are also beginning to tell stories about how government and public bodies operate in our society as a vital complement to our day-to-day litigation and casework. We facilitate the publication of first-hand accounts by those navigating welfare systems and the social analysis of those directly affected by the issues we challenge, not as an exercise in inclusion but to challenge head-on the terms of the policy debate.

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ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Public Law

We opened 43 new cases in Public Law during the period. PILC's public law work is not so much about volume however as we use individual cases strategically where possible, challenging policies and practices rather than pursuing Judicial Reviews affecting individuals only. The best way to evaluate the quantitative impact of our work is to assess how many people are affected by the issues we challenge, though this is not always easy to determine. Between November 2020 and March 2022, our Public Law work included:

a) Housing

- *MLR v Southwark Council* - This is a challenge to the housing allocation policy of the London Borough of Southwark, in which it awards the highest band (Band 1) to applicants who are statutorily overcrowded. Whilst accepting that our client is statutorily overcrowded the council has refused him Band 1 on the basis that he caused his statutory overcrowding as the result of a 'deliberate act' as the house was statutorily overcrowded at the point he moved in. We are arguing that this was not a 'deliberate act' as the Claimant did not have enough income to afford any larger accommodation and therefore did not have any meaningful choice but to move into the property. This case builds on a long-standing campaign led by Housing Action Southwark and Lambeth, which demanded an end to this unfair and harmful treatment of families in overcrowded housing. The case is due to be heard in the High Court in June 2022.

b) Racial Justice and Migrants' Rights

- *MA v The Royal Parks* - PILC worked with grassroots union United Voices of the World on a challenge against The Royal Parks for indirectly discriminating against their outsourced workers under the Equality Act 2010. This highlighted the very significant disparity between the terms and conditions which are paid to our client and other staff working under outsourced contracts and the terms and conditions of those who work directly for The Royal Parks. The disparities in terms and conditions map on to a very clear difference in the ethnic composition of the two workforces. Despite the importance of this case and its potential to be far-reaching, PILC was forced to withdraw the claim for fear of subjecting our client to adverse costs. This was, in part, due to a refusal of the Legal Aid Agency to grant funding for the case and our limited ability to raise the sufficient funds to confidently protect our client.

- *RAMFEL v SSHD* - PILC were instructed by RAMFEL, a small charity that supports vulnerable migrants to access justice, to challenge an amendment to the Immigration Rules that came into force on 1st December 2020, which made 'rough sleeping' sufficient grounds for refusal or revocation of leave. Following PILC's submission of a letter before claim, the rule's scope and application were severely restricted in April 2021. We nonetheless sought permission from the High Court on behalf of RAMFEL to put a case forward with a view to quash the rule in its entirety. We are still awaiting a decision from the High Court.

- *LK v SSHD* - This is a challenge to the (automatic) pausing of EU Settlement Scheme applications on behalf of those with pending criminal prosecutions, affecting 10,000+ EU nationals with lengthy delays. The Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum) initially refused our application to judicially review the policy. Following the submission of an appeal to the Court of Appeal, permission was granted. The case will be brought back to the Upper Tribunal in due course.

c) Violence against Women

- *Anon Vs Camden Council* - This case challenged Camden Council's practice of placing survivors of Domestic Abuse in mixed-gender accommodation. The case settled shortly before trial as the council agreed to consider homeless women who have suffered abuse when reviewing the commissioning and provision of accommodation. The council also agreed to take account of further representations from PILC in formulating the policy and procedure by which they consider homelessness applications of survivors and the use of mixed-gender accommodation.

- *TRX v Network Homes Ltd* - This case challenged a Housing Association's rejection of our client's application to transfer her tenancy because of Domestic Abuse and threats by her former partner. The High Court found that Network Homes Ltd failed to give adequate reasons for the refusal of the transfer request. The legal decision was also significant insofar as it was upheld that decisions taken by housing associations relating to the consideration and refusal of management transfers are subject to judicial review, something Network Homes had argued against.

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d) Gentrification

- *JF v Southwark Council and Delancey* - This case challenged the way in which the council (in a decision by its planning committee) dealt with how much affordable housing should be included within the re-development of Elephant & Castle shopping centre. PILC argued that more social housing should be provided and that elected councillors, not council officers, should have made those decisions. Although this case was ultimately lost in the High Court and the Court of Appeal, our client and other local campaigners continue to fight for social housing in Southwark.

- *HP v Newham Council* - This case attempted to challenge the process around decision-making of the Carpenters Estate's regeneration in Newham. Unfortunately, the Legal Aid Agency rejected our application for funding, thus prohibiting our ability to take the case forward. PILC worked alongside local campaigners Focus E15 and Siân Berry (London Assembly) to bring to light the unfair process of local ballots where Newham spent in excess of £350,000 on their campaign to demolish the estate. An amendment to the Mayor's budget was subsequently passed by the London Assembly, requesting a Resident Empowerment Fund to remedy some of this disbalance. Sadly, the Mayor did not approve the amendment. Other lessons were learnt from this case, which will be useful going forward.

e) Other

- *Parents United v Secretary of State for Education* - PILC worked with Parents United and acted on behalf of clinically vulnerable families to challenge the government's policy on school attendance during the Covid-19 pandemic. We published a briefing note outlining the government's position as set out in response to a letter before claim and explaining how this position deviates from its guidance. As a result, many schools and Local Authorities overturned previous penalty notices that were issued to vulnerable families.

- *CND v Transport for London (TfL)* - The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament were refused the ability to place non-party political advertisement on TfL operated sites, like the London Underground. This was against public policy, and so CND instructed PILC to challenge this. TfL accepted that they were wrong to refuse the advert and invited the CND to resubmit their proposed advert.

Finally, we were saddened by the death of one of our long-standing clients. G was a survivor of child sex abuse and the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) had refused to award him compensation as a result of convictions he had received. These convictions post-dated the abuse but the CICA has no discretion in these circumstances to make an award. The legal challenge was to this lack of discretion, that mandatory exclusionary rule contained in the scheme, in the context of child sex abuse.

2. Claims against Public Authorities

We opened 10 new cases in Claims against Public Authorities during the period. This is an area which has potential for development and which PILC seeks to expand. However, it will need to be resourced adequately and currently remains a secondary activity to our public law work. We have used it effectively to claim damages for clients following public law litigation:

- Following judgement on *Gureckis and others v SSHD*, we successfully claimed £60,000 in damages on behalf of 3 clients during the period for unlawful detention and confiscation of ID documents. Since December 2017, we have claimed in excess of £500,000 on behalf of 15 clients.

- Following settlement of a case against Camden Council for gender discrimination against survivors of domestic abuse, £20,000 was claimed on behalf of two clients.

A case against the Ministry of Defence was successfully settled on behalf of a cleaner who had been employed by Mitie to work at GCHQ since Jan 2020. On return from maternity leave in May 2021, she was subjected to re-vetting and subsequently lost her job when security clearance was withdrawn. None of her colleagues were vetted on such a regular basis. Our client argued she had been unlawfully discriminated because she was not born in the UK. She was subsequently reinstated and paid her lost earnings.

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A civil claim for damages has been issued on behalf of another client against Newham Council. Council officers had wrongly disclosed to the Department for Work and Pensions that our client had been removed by the Home Office and his benefits were stopped as a result. Client was destitute for three months which led to a deterioration in his already fragile mental state.

We are working on several civil claims against the Home Office, including two claims under the Human Rights Act for clients who were subject to serious maladministration and unlawfully exposed to Hostile Environment policies as a consequence.

3. Other cases

In January 2019, PILC brought a private prosecution against a high-ranking Sri Lankan military official, known as Brigadier Fernando, under the Public Order Act 1986. In early 2018, Brigadier Fernando was filmed, whilst on duty in his military uniform, making cut-throat gestures to the peaceful protestors who were situated opposite the Sri Lankan High Commission. The protest had been called by Tamil Solidarity. Initially found guilty in the Magistrates' Court, Brigadier Fernando was eventually acquitted in March 2021 following a High Court judgement granting diplomatic immunity.

In November 2020, PILC was instructed by the Tamil Information Centre (TIC) to file a complaint, supported by a detailed dossier of evidence, to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)'s War Crimes Unit. The complaint relates to alleged war crimes committed by British mercenaries in Sri Lanka. The MPS has completed a scoping exercise into the allegations and detectives from the War Crimes Unit are now proceeding with a full investigation.

PILC represented Ricky Tomlinson, Arthur Murray and Brian Williams (members of the Shrewsbury 24) in the Court of Appeal in March 2021. They were ordinary trade unionists arrested for their involvement in the national builders' strike in 1972. Ricky, Brian and four others were sentenced to prison for unlawful assembly, conspiracy to intimidate and affray. The Court of Appeal quashed the 47-year-old convictions following submissions that Police had destroyed evidence and their trial could not have been fair. PILC also submitted evidence of state involvement in the production of a documentary portraying our clients as violent and broadcasted just before they were due to give evidence. We argued that the programme caused sufficient prejudice to render the trial unsafe, although the Court did not accept it. We subsequently published a report entitled [The Shrewsbury pickets, political policing and the state](#).

In October 2021, we were instructed by the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam to challenge the latest decision by the Secretary of State to continue proscribing the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE, also known as 'Tamil Tigers') under the Terrorism Act (2000).

In March 2022, we were formally instructed by Unite the Union to act as solicitors to the independent inquiry into the involvement by Unite the Union officers or officials in the operation of blacklists in the construction industry. The inquiry is led by independent investigators, barristers Nick Randall QC and John Carl Townsend. As a further safeguard, there is a panel of lay members consisting of two Executive Committee members for the Construction Sector and the Chair of the Blacklist Support Group. This lay member panel has broader oversight of the investigation with the objective of ensuring that it is truly fair and independent.

4. Public Inquiries

a) Undercover Policing Inquiry (UCPI)

The Undercover Policing Inquiry was set up in 2015 to get to the truth about undercover policing across England and Wales since 1968 and provide recommendations for the future. This was in response to independent reviews by Mark Ellison QC, which found "appalling practices in undercover policing". The work of the Inquiry covers the full scope of undercover policing work across England and Wales. Two undercover policing units - the Special Demonstration Squad (SDS) and the National Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU) - have particular prominence for the Inquiry; The SDS, an undercover unit of the Metropolitan Police, was set up in 1968 to infiltrate British protest groups and operated until 2008.

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In 2016, PILC was instructed by Youth Against Racism in Europe (YRE), Hannah Sell, Lois Austin and Dave Nellist, a former Labour Member of Parliament to act for them in the UCPI. We were later instructed by 'Mary', one of the first women deceived into a sexual relationship by an undercover police officer and Richard Chessum, activist in the Troops Out movement to apply for core participant status.

In November 2020, PILC secured core participant status for the Stop the War coalition and three ex-leading members of the Socialist Worker Party (SWP). The SWP was under state surveillance during the 40 years of the Special Demonstration Squad's existence and involved the infiltration of more than 35 undercover police officers within that political party. We also began representing the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), one of the most important peace campaigns, not only in Britain but also internationally.

We represented Richard Chessum, 'Mary', Lindsey German and John Rees in the first two phases of Tranche 1, which covers the period of the Special Demonstration Squad's deployment between 1968-1982. Opening statements were prepared by Paul Heron, PILC's senior solicitor, Piers Marquis, Junior Counsel and delivered by James Scobie QC.

During the course of this work, we have argued that:

- left and left-leaning political movements only were infiltrated;
- the Special Demonstration Squad went far beyond its original remit, officers manipulating the democratic processes of an organisation to place themselves in leading positions, often with the intention of de-railing them;
- officers used and exploited the trust of law-abiding citizens, including manipulative sexual relationships;
- those in positions of power in the Metropolitan Police were fully aware of these tactics;
- the SDS worked often at the instruction of MI5 and the security services;
- the SDS, Special Branch and MI5 were involved in wide-spread blacklisting of workers because of their political views;
- we suspect leading civil servants and Government Ministers were fully aware of the activities of the SDS through updates from the Met Police Commissioner and other senior officers. The SDS budget was approved every year by the Home Office, therefore it is almost certain that they were aware of its activities and organisation.

The inquiry will complete Tranche 1 in May 2022. We are due to deliver our closing statement in January 2023. We will then proceed with Tranche 2 during which evidence will be given by our clients.

b) Covid-19 Inquiry

In July 2020, PILC formally wrote to the Government Legal Department on behalf of the Law Centres Network to demand a public inquiry into the government's handling of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic under s1 Inquiries Act 2005. The letter was also signed by a network of 70+ small and large organisations who supported our call. The prime minister announced the inquiry in May 2021, with a view to start proceedings in Spring 2022. First public hearings are expected to start in 2023.

We are particularly interested to use our experience of public inquiries in reaching out to underrepresented groups via our grassroots and frontline partners. To date, we have been instructed by a number of groups and organisations across our key areas of expertise to apply on their behalf for Core Participant when applications open. They include: Parents United, grassroots unions UVW and IWGB, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) and Doctors of the World. We are also working closely with Solace Women's Aid and Southall Black Sisters, amongst other women organisations.

5. Projects

PILC also delivers its work through funded projects in key priority areas. These projects are not separate from PILC's legal representation and strategic litigation. In fact, they often provide additional resources to develop and maintain relationships with vulnerable individuals, grassroots groups and frontline organisations. They also enable us to deliver on some of the Legal Hub model which complement formal legal work, such as training, capacity-building and second-tier advice.

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a) Violence against Women

Funded by the Baring Foundation since 2019, PILC operates a legal hub at the intersection of housing and domestic abuse. Through this work, we have supported frontline organisations in the women sector to challenge a range of gatekeeping issues against domestic abuse survivors - particularly where homelessness applications are made or tenancies need to be transferred due to risk of abuse. During the period, we also trained 150+ frontline workers from 15 women organisations. We also provided second-tier advice on 150+ cases. As a result of need and PILC's limited capacity, we launched the Domestic Abuse Housing Forum in December 2021, bringing together lawyers, frontline workers and campaigners to facilitate referrals and pull resources to challenge gatekeeping. There are currently about 120 active members on the forum. In December 2021, PILC was awarded further funding by the Baring Foundation to expand our activities and focus on the needs of black, minoritised and migrant women set to begin in April 2022.

b) Racial Justice & Migrants' Rights

Race is both a cross-cutting theme and a point of focus in much of our work. Racialised individuals and communities are overly represented in most parts of our work. PILC has been a partner to the Roma Support Group on the Ketane project (funded by the National Lottery until the end of 2022), a Roma-led initiative that has enabled the empowerment of Roma communities across the UK through a programme of advocacy, training, digital resources, partnerships with law centres, and campaigning. The project's aim is to bring the law closer to Roma civil society and vice versa, as well as to inform and influence policy makers. Online resources have reached 10,000+ people via social media.

Between 2018 and 2021 PILC was funded by the Oak Foundation to defend the rights of EU nationals through Brexit. During that period, we advised 1562 clients, 186 of whom we represented or provided casework for. We also provided advice, either directly or on a second-tier basis to 285 people. In total we assisted clients from 48 countries. We also ran outreach surgeries at 11 organisations and 30+ others referred to the project, mostly from London. We reached out to 293 Roma rough sleepers and/or precarious workers through street outreach with the Roma Support Group. As Oak Foundation funding ended, we published a report entitled Still Here: Defending the rights of homeless EU citizens after Brexit and Covid-19, which details PILC's rights based approach and the work carried out over 3 years.

Between April 2020 and September 2021, we also assisted 798 individuals to apply to the EU settlement scheme as part of a London-wide partnership led by Crisis and funded by the Home Office. In 2021-22, we represented 60 clients with their EUSS applications, mostly vulnerable EU nationals, non-EU national family members and those with complex needs. We have developed a particular expertise in dealing with people with criminal convictions in the UK and abroad as well as those with pending convictions, which has led to strategic litigation. 45 of them were resolved in the past year and we continue to work with the remaining 15.

In March 2021, PILC was awarded funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to continue developing its work with EU nationals at risk of destitution after Brexit. It uses participatory action research, policy and communications and feeds into strategic litigation. Fortnightly 'Coffee mornings', co-designed by and centering the lived experience of EU migrants at risk of destitution, have been running since October 2021 and are attended by an average 10-12 people. The group offers a safe, regular forum in which people can come together to discuss the issues that affect them, as well as increasing their knowledge of changes to their rights and entitlements in key areas. Participants identified an unfair policy about access to Universal Credit which ended up going viral and they are now working to produce their own policy analysis of navigating systems to access accommodation and welfare benefits.

c) Gentrification

In February 2022, Funding was secured from Trust for London to recruit a community lawyer to undertake strategic litigation specialising in planning and environmental law to support grassroots groups and tenants & residents' associations who campaign for regeneration projects that benefit the local community rather than private developers.

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The main issue we are seeking to address is the loss of secure council tenancies that increases every year through the sale of public land, the demolition of council housing and the lack of new social housing developments and which has resulted in working-class populations being moved out of London. We are also seeking to address the negative environmental impact inherent to profit-driven private developments such as letting estates go into disrepair, demolishing existing estates and building anew (often with associated loss of social housing). Recent trends include infill of 'affordable' housing on green spaces in already densely-populated estates. Finally, much of local planning and housing development is done with little scrutiny from the communities affected by it due to the opaque processes of 'consultation' and tight legal frameworks. Another common cause of confusion in grassroots campaigns are the terms 'social' and 'affordable' housing which are interchangeably used with inconsistent definitions.

6. Research and Communications

Research & communications are vital complements to PILC's legal work. It is key to our legal education work, whether we are disseminating rights information, highlighting changes to legislation or raising awareness about how public law can help communities seek redress against systemic injustice. It is how we publicise strategic litigation, whether we are disseminating victories or ensuring that the social-justice message of a case isn't lost, even if we lose in court. High-quality research is often necessary to assess whether or not unlawful practices can be litigated against and to provide instrumental evidence to the courts.

In a tech-mediated world, communications is also a critical change-making tool. PILC has used communications effectively alongside its legal work in a number of ways/cases:

- Co-written article with homeless person (in first person) for Novara Media, depicting lived experience of being made street homeless during the pandemic without recourse to public funds.
- Email campaign in support of PILC and Southall Black Sisters' legal challenge during first lockdown to demand allocation of ring-fenced funding to ensure survivors of domestic abuse can access safe accommodation.
- CrowdJustice fundraising to challenge rough sleeping amendment to the Immigration Rules
- Legal briefings on rough sleeping amendment to the Immigration Rules, access to student finance for non-UK nationals domestic abuse survivors and Domestic Abuse Act (2021)
- Launch of Domestic Abuse and Housing Forum, a network bringing together domestic abuse advocates and lawyers to support survivors and challenge gatekeeping amongst other issues.

In addition, we have also published the following research reports:

Rough sleeping as a ground for refusal or cancellation of leave to enter or remain in the UK

The Shrewsbury Pickets, Political Policing and the State

Still Here: Defending the Rights of homeless EU citizens after Brexit and Covid-19

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FUTURE PLANS

Having spent much of 2021-22 on strengthening internal systems, we look forward to developing more of the relationships and work we want to undertake over the next 12 months:

- Recruit a solicitor to undertake strategic litigation in the areas of planning and environmental law to support the work of grassroots groups and tenants & residents' associations, campaigning for regeneration projects that benefit the local community (Trust for London grant).
- Develop a model to capacity build Law Centres to take a more community-engaged and strategic approach to the needs of their clients and community by learning about PILC's approach to public law and by utilising their Legal Aid contract.
- Develop a public law hub for migration organisations (e.g. RAMFEL, Praxis) and other grassroots groups.
- Develop fundraising beyond trusts and foundations: building a supporter base for crowdfunding, approaching trade unions to build a Fighting Fund, building a fellowship fund to provide paid opportunities for law students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

We also expect to:

- Plan and prepare to tender for Legal Aid contracts (likely to be in 2023), which will be the final step in making PILC fully independent.
- Begin work on a new strategic plan as the current plan will be entering its last year in July 2022

FUNDRAISING

PILC has greatly benefited from the financial support of trusts and foundations, first when it set up independently in the wake of Lambeth Law Centre's liquidation; and within 12 months of that when the Covid-19 pandemic majorly disrupted everyday life and business operations.

PILC's approach to fundraising mainly focuses on grants from trusts and foundations, both for core and project funds, which enables PILC to work through its community lawyering and legal hub model - developing strategic legal work with grassroots groups and frontline organisations whilst delivering legal education. Grants also enable PILC to conduct or commission pre-litigation research and advocate on behalf of its clients beyond the courts.

As PILC continues to develop, grant funding will continue to play an important role:

- Core funding towards administrative and managerial functions, both vital to the sustainability and growth of the organisation.
- Seed funding towards the development of new areas of litigation. We estimate it takes about 18 months for a lawyer to build a caseload and start bringing a regular income to the organisation.
- Project funding to enable PILC's lawyers to develop and maintain relationships with grassroots groups and frontline organisations, deliver legal education and engage in advocacy work.

Other grants may be sought to resource PILC's research and communications work as well as the development of an internship programme for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. We may also, from time to time, take on specific projects or partnerships which come to our attention or respond to a particular need.

Fundraising from individual donors is negligible in comparison to income from other sources. We occasionally use Crowd Justice to support legal cases on which we act pro-bono to protect clients from potential adverse costs of bringing legal action, though this does not usually benefit PILC directly. There is a PayPal 'Donation' button on PILC's website, which occasionally receives direct donations from members of the public. Due to the limited nature of this activity we have not sought to register with the fundraising regulator. We also do not directly involve vulnerable people in our fundraising activities. We have not received any complaints about our fundraising activity. Going forward, we intend to commission a scoping exercise to determine the best way for PILC to grow its supporter base, generate engagement and increase individual donations. We also hope to set up a Fighting Fund, which would enable PILC to litigate where public funding is not available.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW

PILC's business model relies on income from fundraising from trusts and foundations and earned income from its professional legal activities/services, both important in equal measure. We aim to raise a minimum of 40% of PILC's income through fundraising and remain aware of the potential risks of dependency on any one source of income.

These financial statements are PILC's first fully audited accounts. They cover the period from 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022. However, apart from asset transfers on 31/03/2021, all transactions took place from 1st April 2021, the date at which we transferred staff, business and operational costs from the limited company to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

PILC's gross income was £1,000,180 whilst total expenditure amounted to £596,954. This resulted in a net income of £403,226. It is important to note that these figures do not accurately reflect PILC's annual turnover as they were 'artificially' inflated by the asset transfers originating from the limited company. These have been referred to as 'exceptional items' in the accounts and amount to £268,673, of which £250,000 was cash.

The balance sheet shows a healthy level of cash at bank of £313,793. It is important that PILC maintains a substantial cash buffer given the duration of public law cases, lengthy billing procedures and protracted settlements for payment of legal work.

Following our business model, PILC's income can be broadly divided in two categories:

1. Grants from Trusts and Foundations amounted to £177,270 for the period:

- AB Charitable Trust
- Baring Foundation
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- Oak Foundation
- Strategic Legal Fund

In addition to the above, we are delighted to have secured additional grants for the next three years, starting from April 2022:

- Baring Foundation
- Matrix Causes Fund
- Trust for London

2. Earned income from legal work amounted to £515,601 for the period:

- Legal Aid (£94,783),
- Inter Partes (£227,493)
- Undercover Policing Inquiry (£187,700)
- Other (£5,625)

It is important to note that these figures include Counsel fees and Costs Draftsman fees which total £203,862 (noted as Legal Representation under Charitable Activities Costs). Although these fees are paid to PILC, they are passed on to Counsel straight away. A more accurate net figure for earned income attributable to PILC is: £311,739.

Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period amount to £313,793, including £2,923 in restricted funds, leaving PILC with £310,870 in unrestricted funds. Although we are not able to make direct comparisons with the previous financial year (2020-21), we can assert that PILC's unrestricted cash reserves have increased by £60,870 over the period.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

RESERVES POLICY

The Board of Trustees has set a target of retaining free reserves which represents six months' annual operating costs. This amount is reflective of general good practice in the charity sector and is even more important for PILC as it requires higher levels of cash flow due to the nature of its work. PILC's board of trustees consider free reserves to be all available cash at bank excluding restricted and designated funds.

From PILC's 2022-23 budget, six months' annual operating costs generates a free reserves target of £248,500. These reserves enable the Law Centre to deal with the following contingencies:

- Problems with cash flow due to delay in legal income payments
- Reduction in or withdrawal of grant funding
- Reduction in Legal Aid earned income
- In the event of closure, six months running costs to wind up the organisation and pay redundancies, leasehold and other liabilities

In addition the board has designated funds as follows:

- £50,000 for unforeseen staffing issues (e.g. sickness, parental leave)

The total amount of reserves we had aimed to build was therefore £298,500.

At 31 March 2022, our unrestricted freely available reserves amount to £310,870, which covers both the necessary free reserves target and the designated funds for unforeseen staffing issues.

Over the next 3 years, the board also aims to build additional designated funds as follows:

- £50,000 towards a Fighting Fund
- £40,000 in the event we need to move from our current premises
- £20,000 for replacing essential equipment, e.g IT

This policy is reviewed annually when the board of trustees considers the end of year projections and the audited accounts.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

PRINCIPLE RISKS

PILC has proven to be agile and resilient, first surviving the liquidation of its host before stabilising the organisation during a major pandemic. However, we manage risk carefully. We maintain a Risk Register, which is updated by the Senior Management Team and reviewed bi-monthly by the Board of Trustees. We also have a Business Continuity Plan, which is tested annually.

As a small organisation punching above its weight, there is a tendency to always expect over-achievement. This can translate in working at or beyond capacity for periods of time. This presents significant risks to the wellbeing of our staff, including fatigue and burnout. It may also open the organisation to potential issues of compliance or affect the high standards we uphold. It is therefore essential that all activities going forward, including core and admin functions, are properly resourced.

The loss of any staff would impact our work. However, we remain over-reliant on key personnel, who have been largely responsible in bringing revenue - either through litigation or fundraising. Management positions have been better supported with the addition of new staff and the development of organisational systems, policies and procedures. Contingency plans are also in place in case of prolonged absences.

Although Communications is a vital part of PILC's work and, to a certain extent, the organisation has made good use of it since its inception, the lack of a communications strategy limits the impact of PILC's work and the development of its profile. This has partly been remedied by the part-time (internal) appointment of a research and communications coordinator working with the team. A strategy remains to be completed and agreed at management level.

At the time of registering PILC as a charity, the Charity Commission raised concerns about the political nature of our work. In response, we published a 'Campaigning, Political Activity and Strategic Litigation Policy & Procedure' to assert that we will not undertake campaigning or political activity otherwise than in support of our charitable purpose.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

PILC (formerly known as the 'Public Interest Law Unit') was initially set up in September 2016 as a project of Lambeth Law Centre. PILC incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (No: 12133800) on 1st August 2019 following the liquidation of Lambeth Law Centre.

Following its founding trustee meeting in July 2020, PILC was formally constituted and became registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in England and Wales (No: 1192355) in November 2020. On 1st April 2021, most assets were transferred from the company to the CIO and all staff were TUPE-ed over. Our current premises are secure until the end of December 2024. The company is expected to be wound up by the end of December 2022.

For Legal Aid purposes, PILC acts as an agent of Camden Community Law Centre (CCLC). This hosting arrangement is subject to a Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Legal Aid Agency. It will remain in place until a new tender for standard civil contracts is advertised by the Legal Aid Agency (expected in 2023).

We are registered with the Solicitors Regulator Authority and the Law Society. We are also a member of the Law Centres Network, Advice UK and the Legal Aid Practitioners Group.

Board of Trustees

PILC undertook a successful recruitment drive for its board of trustees in Spring 2021. We took great care to build a board of trustees which reflects the communities we serve whilst bringing a range of skills that is essential to strong governance. We advertised trustee roles and reached out through our networks, which resulted in 6 new trustees joining PILC's board in July 2021. As part of that, we recruited two trustees from the Black on Board programme run by OLMEC, which trains and mentors black and minoritised candidates to take board positions. PILC's board is made up of 8 trustees including 6 women, 4 from minoritised backgrounds and 2 trustees with lived experience of the immigration system. What binds PILC's trustees is a rich experience of grassroots campaigning. 6 of our trustees are lifelong campaigners across a range of issues including: immigration, racial justice, housing and homelessness, disability and labour rights. In September 2021, we undertook a skills audit shortly after all new appointees started with a view to shape the direction of training for trustees and future recruitment.

Sean Canning resigned as a trustee in September 2021 due to numerous other commitments. We remain hugely grateful to Sean for his unwavering support and expert knowledge during the set-up of the organisation. We remain in close contact with him as Director of Camden Community Law Centre.

Trustees meet 6 times a year as a board. They review performance against PILC's strategic and operational plan, scrutinise management accounts and income projections, maintain a risk register, consider human resources and any other long-term management issues. Finally, staff and trustees come together on an annual basis to review PILC's progress in relation to its strategic objectives, discuss issues of interest and plan for the future.

In January 2021, we held the Away Day online due to continuing Covid-19 restrictions. The day focused on identifying PILC's core values and how to reflect them internally, including the design of a good HR framework. In February 2022, staff and trustees met in person for PILC's annual Away Day. This was a chance to familiarise new trustees with PILC's operating environment and ongoing casework as well as providing an opportunity for all staff to reflect on and feed into organisation-wide key priority areas, litigation strategy and external communications.

Management structure

PILC is co-led by Jean Demars (Director) who oversees strategic, operational and financial management and Paul Heron (Senior Solicitor) who oversees casework management, litigation strategy and Legal Aid contract management. They are supported by Helen Mowatt (Supervising Solicitor, Claims against Public Authorities) and Dermot Morrow (Operations Manager) who complete the senior management team. At 31 March 2022 PILC employs 10 staff (9.1 FTE) and contracts out a self-employed Finance Officer (0.4 FTE).

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Organisational Development

The appointment of Dermot Morrow as Operations Manager and Jon Waters as Finance Officer in October-November 2020 enabled PILC to develop a comprehensive system of policies and procedures to strengthen the administration and overall management of the organisation. These were compiled into a Staff Office Manual available to all staff online. A Finance Manual was created to set out the financial systems and controls in place.

In December 2021, PILC reached an important milestone of its development by becoming accredited by the Law Society's Lexcel quality mark for client care, compliance and practice management. Assessments are conducted annually and include the following areas: structure and strategy, financial management, information management, risk management, people management, client care, file and case management. Each area of competence must be demonstrated through policies, procedures and practice. Lexcel accreditation is also a necessary requirement to apply for Legal Aid contracts.

Additional staff were recruited during the period with the addition of two paralegals, Saskia O'Hara (November 2020) and Sam Tippet (June 2021), and a public law solicitor, Ellen Fotheringham (September 2021). These appointments were much needed to alleviate pressure from and support our existing two solicitors. All of them have been excellent additions to the team.

Although PILC staff have shown resilience and dedication ever since we set up independently, it was acknowledged at the Away Day held in January 2021 that Covid-19 had an impact on the team due to working from home for lengthy periods. As well as organising a staff welfare day in the summer, the board requested a wellbeing survey to be carried out. The results showed that staff strongly believe in the work of the organisation and there is a positive working environment, noting the level of interpersonal care. However, staff also fed back that it needed to be embedded in terms and conditions of employment, that a wellbeing policy should be developed to ensure it does not rely on personal relationships only and that management take a pro-active approach to staff wellbeing.

Following on from the above, PILC staff, management and trustees work together during 2021-22 to improve the terms and conditions of employment at PILC including the following:

- Creation of parental leave policies, including 6-month full pay maternity leave
- Creation of sickness leave policy, including 4-month full pay sickness absence
- Increase in PILC's pension contribution to 5%
- Paid study leave up to 5 days

A Remuneration Policy and Structure was also created to ensure fairness and transparency.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

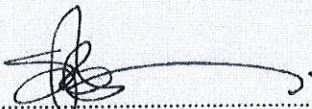
Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2022 was 8. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

AUDITORS

Berringers LLP was re-appointed as the charity's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 7 November 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs S E Muna - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Public Interest Law Centre (the 'charity') for the period ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the independent auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the independent auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and error, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry, control environment and business performance;
- results of our enquiries to management about their own assessment of the risks of fraud and error;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud may occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

Our procedures to respond to risk include the following:

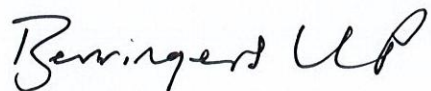
- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected areas that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud or error;
- addressing the risk of fraud and error through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journals, assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE**

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Berringers LLP
Chartered Accountants
and Statutory Auditors
Lygon House
50 London Road
Bromley
Kent
BR1 3RA

Date: 7-11-2022

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	2	306,951	-	306,951
Charitable activities				
Legal representation		636,101	56,770	692,871
Investment income	3	<u>358</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>358</u>
Total		<u>943,410</u>	<u>56,770</u>	<u>1,000,180</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities	5			
Legal representation		203,862	-	203,862
Staff costs		288,705	43,464	332,169
Accommodation costs		26,166	-	26,166
Other support costs		<u>24,373</u>	<u>10,384</u>	<u>34,757</u>
Total		<u>543,106</u>	<u>53,848</u>	<u>596,954</u>
NET INCOME		<u>400,304</u>	<u>2,922</u>	<u>403,226</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>400,304</u></u>	<u><u>2,922</u></u>	<u><u>403,226</u></u>

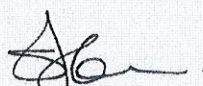
The notes form part of these financial statements

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

BALANCE SHEET
31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	10	6,600	-	6,600
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	11	294,364	-	294,364
Cash at bank		<u>310,870</u>	<u>2,923</u>	<u>313,793</u>
		605,234	2,923	608,157
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(211,531)	-	(211,531)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>393,703</u>	<u>2,923</u>	<u>396,626</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>400,303</u>	<u>2,923</u>	<u>403,226</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>400,303</u>	<u>2,923</u>	<u>403,226</u>
FUNDS	13			
Unrestricted funds				400,303
Restricted funds				<u>2,923</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>403,226</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 12/11/22 and were signed on its behalf by:

 SUZANNE MUNA
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

	Notes	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>313,435</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>313,435</u>
 Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received		<u>358</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>358</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		313,793
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>313,793</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of financial activities)	403,226
Adjustments for:	
Depreciation charges	1,650
Interest received	(358)
Donation of tangible fixed assets	(8,250)
Increase in debtors	(294,364)
Increase in creditors	<u>211,531</u>
Net cash provided by operations	<u>313,435</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 16.11.20 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.22 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>-</u>	<u>313,793</u>	<u>313,793</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>313,793</u>	<u>313,793</u>
Total	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>313,793</u></u>	<u><u>313,793</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 20% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	£
Donations	38,278
Exceptional items	<u>268,673</u>
	<u>306,951</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	£
Deposit account interest	<u>358</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	£
Grants	177,270
Legal Aid, Training & Service	94,783
Inter Partes	227,493
UCPI	187,700
Other income	<u>5,625</u>
	<u>692,871</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	£
Baring Foundation	32,675
Strategic Legal Fund	3,470
The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	20,625
AB Charitable Trust	27,500
Oak Foundation	<u>93,000</u>
	<u>177,270</u>

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 6) £	Totals £
Legal representation	203,862	-	203,862
Staff costs	328,111	4,058	332,169
Accommodation costs	-	26,166	26,166
Other support costs	<u>7,025</u>	<u>27,732</u>	<u>34,757</u>
	<u>538,998</u>	<u>57,956</u>	<u>596,954</u>

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Other £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Staff costs	4,058	-	4,058
Accommodation costs	26,166	-	26,166
Other support costs	<u>21,782</u>	<u>5,950</u>	<u>27,732</u>
	<u>52,006</u>	<u>5,950</u>	<u>57,956</u>

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the period ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the period ended 31 March 2022.

8. STAFF COSTS

	£
Wages and salaries	297,563
Social security costs	23,778
Other pension costs	<u>6,770</u>
	<u>328,111</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the period was as follows:

Legal advice	7
Administration	<u>3</u>
	<u>10</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

9. EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

Included within donation income is an exceptional item totalling £268,673 which was donated by Public Interest Law Centre Ltd in relation to a transfer of operations (as detailed in the Trustees Report) which included the transfer of related assets on 1 April 2021. Public Interest Law Centre Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (no. 12133800).

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
Additions	<u>8,250</u>
DEPRECIATION	
Charge for year	<u>1,650</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2022	<u><u>6,600</u></u>

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	£
Trade debtors	217,845
Other debtors	15,537
Accrued income	55,868
Prepayments	<u>5,114</u>
	<u><u>294,364</u></u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	£
Trade creditors	72,436
Taxation and social security	29,001
Other creditors	<u>110,094</u>
	<u><u>211,531</u></u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds		
General fund	400,303	400,303
Restricted funds		
Strategic Legal Fund	1,215	1,215
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	<u>1,708</u>	<u>1,708</u>
	<u>2,923</u>	<u>2,923</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>403,226</u></u>	<u><u>403,226</u></u>

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	943,410	(543,107)	400,303
Restricted funds			
Baring Foundation	32,675	(32,675)	-
Strategic Legal Fund	3,470	(2,255)	1,215
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	<u>20,625</u>	<u>(18,917)</u>	<u>1,708</u>
	<u>56,770</u>	<u>(53,847)</u>	<u>2,923</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>1,000,180</u></u>	<u><u>(596,954)</u></u>	<u><u>403,226</u></u>

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

On 1 April 2021, there was a transfer of operations and related assets totalling £268,673 from Public Interest Law Centre Ltd, a company connected due to key management in common.

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

£

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS

Donations and legacies

Donations	38,278
Exceptional items	<u>268,673</u>
	306,951

Investment income

Deposit account interest	358
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Charitable activities

Grants	177,270
Legal Aid, Training & Service	94,783
Inter Partes	227,493
UCPI	187,700
Other income	<u>5,625</u>
	<u>692,871</u>

Total incoming resources	1,000,180
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EXPENDITURE

Charitable activities

Salaries	297,563
Social security	23,778
Pensions	6,770
Non-recoverable disbursements	1,928
Counsel fees	187,236
Project costs	2,896
Legal Aid costs	16,626
Professional insurance	<u>2,201</u>
	538,998

Support costs

Other

Rent	24,000
Rates and water	2,166
Insurance	667
Telephone	552
Postage and stationery	1,678
Sundries	2,028
Repairs & maintenance	92
Advertising & marketing	950
Travel & subsistence	88
Bank charges	431
Carried forward	32,652

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
for the period 16 November 2020 to 31 March 2022

	£
Other	
Brought forward	32,652
Subscriptions	1,795
Cleaning	362
Training costs	3,688
Computer, software & IT costs	8,155
Storage & archiving costs	460
Legal & professional fees	2,874
Staff costs	370
Computer equipment	<u>1,650</u>
	52,006
Governance costs	
Auditors' remuneration	<u>5,950</u>
Total resources expended	<u>596,954</u>
Net income	<u><u>403,226</u></u>